the birds from the light sources of the village.

(ii) Bird-watcher clubs of local educated villagers have been formed to seek their cooperation in protecting the birds.

Indo-Pak Sub-commissions

3580. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the Sub-commissions of Pakistan and India met during the last six months for betterment of Indo-Pak ties; and

(b) the details of subjects discussed at these meetings and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Sub-commissions I and II of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission met at New Delhi from the 10th to 12th August, 1987.

(b) Sub-commission I, which deals with economic matters, agreed on a number of measures for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the fields of planning, agriculture, communications, health, etc. Sub-commission II, which deals with trade matters, had a detailed exchange of views on the possibilities for expanding trade between India and Pakistan.

Medicinal Plants and Herbs in M.P.

3581. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that valuable medicinal plants and herbs are found in abundance in the forests of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in regard to their identification and availability;

(c) if so what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being proposed to ensure that these plants are properly nurtured and utilised and do not become extinct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have published floras of Pachmarhi and Bori Reserves, Raipur, Durg and Rajnandgaon. Flora of Bilaspur has been compiled. These include medicinal plants and herbs. Medicinal plants in Bastar district have been identified under the ethnobotanical study undertaken by the BSI.

(d) Steps taken include:

— Regulation of trade and commerce in endangered species of flora under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

— Cultivation of some rare plants of medicinal importance in the Indian Botanic Garden of BSI and Experimental Gardens located at different parts of the country.

— Scientific propagation of medicinal plants by organisations under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

— Implementation of a scheme of Captive Breeding of Endangered Plant Species by BSI.

— Protection of threatened species of plants in Wildlife Sanctuaries.